Weekly Reader

Volume 44 Issue 12 January 5, 1990

Senior Edition



Americans Lend a Helping Hand

See story on pages 4-5.

P Wide World photo

The stowaway could perch on the rudder because the ship was empty when it left Vietnam.

Brave Stowaway Finds Freedom in U.S.

A freedom-loving stowaway is now studying English in the U.S. after a death-defying escape from Communist Vietnam.

Young Nguyen Van Tuan sneaked aboard an oil tanker bound eventually for the U.S. Unseen, Nguyen crouched for two days atop the ship's rudder, or steering device. He had little food or water and no idea where the ship was headed. Fortunately for him, the ship left Vietnam empty. Had it been loaded with cargo, the spot where Nguyen hid would have

been under water.

When waves rocked the ship at sea, Nguyen clung to his narrow perch with the help of a rope dangling nearby. Nguyen was discovered after the ship's captain had stopped the ship at sea to lower lifeboats for a practice drill. He was brought aboard, but eight weeks passed before the ship docked at Providence, R.I. The U.S. Government allowed Nguyen to stay in America. In ten months, the brave youth will be eligible to become a permanent U.S. resident.

News Update



Oldest Dinosaur Remains Found

As dinosaurs go, herrerasaurus is a midget in size, but a giant in importance. Many scientists say this creature is the oldest known dinosaur. They believe it may help solve the mystery of when dinosaurs first appeared on Earth.

The first fossil remains of herrerasaurus showed up 30 years ago in Argentina. But a full skeleton wasn't found until recently.

Scientists now know this lizardlike beast was the size of a heavy, tall human. It had claws and double-hinged jaws for grasping prey.

Herrerasaurus walked the Earth 230 million years ago—earlier than tyrannosaurus rex and other large dinosaurs—say scientists.

The creature was named for Victorino Herrera, a herder of goats who led scientists to the first herrerasaurus remains.

Antarctica — First World Park?

Antarctica is the world's last undeveloped continent. This huge subzero land has no nations, no armed forces, and no farms or mines.

The closest thing to laws for Antarctica are the provisions of the Antarctica Treaty—an agreement signed by 37 nations, including the U.S.

The treaty, set up in 1959, out-

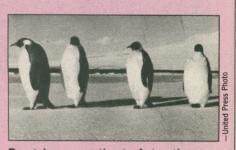
laws all military operations in Antarctica and says that scientific research should be the main activity there.

Today, however, the treaty nations disagree over Antarctica's future. Some nations, including France and Australia, want the continent to remain a wilderness with mining banned and other activities controlled.

Other nations, including the U.S. and Britain, support a plan to allow careful mining and drilling.

The Antarctic treaty nations

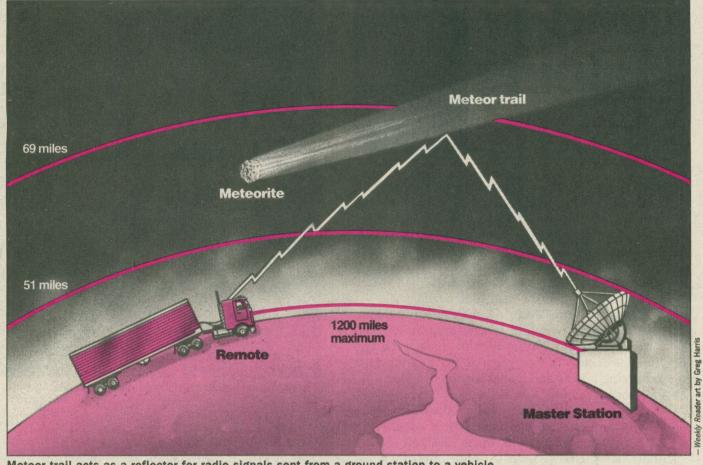
could not settle their differences last fall after two weeks of talks. They plan to meet soon to decide the future of the white continent.



Penguins are native to Antarctica.

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Meteor Trails Help Speed Truck Deliveries



Meteor trail acts as a reflector for radio signals sent from a ground station to a vehicle.

Blazing meteor trails might have speeded the delivery of your breakfast cereal, the clothes you wear, and even the books you read.

The meteor trails are used to send radio messages long distances to long-haul trucks on U.S. highways.

Meteors and Meteorites

A meteor is a streak of light in the sky. It is produced when a meteoroid speeds into the air about 51 to 69 miles above Earth's surface. Friction in the air heats the meteoroid, turning it into a glowing meteor. If the meteoroid survives the fiery plunge to Earth, it is called a meteorite.

Astronomers say many meteoroids come from the asteroid belt between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter. Others are leftover materials from comets that came close to Earth. Earth's gravity pulls meteoroids to the planet.

When a meteoroid streaks through Earth's atmosphere, it begins to burn brightly. It briefly leaves a trail of particles. This trail can bounce radio waves from one point to another.

Since thousands of meteoroids enter Earth's atmosphere every minute, there are nearly always enough trails available to bounce radio signals.

Bouncing Off Meteor Trails

The communication system that bounces signals off meteor trails to trucks was developed by Transtrack Inc. of Marion, Mass. The system also uses computers and LORAN.

LORAN stands for long range

navigation. LORAN uses radio beams sent out from base stations or a vehicle. The signals pinpoint the exact location of each long-haul truck.

Transtrack computers watch for meteor bursts that are large enough to bounce radio signals. When a computer locates such a meteor trail, computerized radio messages are bounced off the trail to trucks. A truck operator can also send messages back to the base station. Messages can be sent halfway across the U.S. using this system.

Truck dispatchers use this system to direct trucks on the road to points for new pickups or deliveries. This system saves trucking companies a great deal of time and money, and helps ensure that products you buy arrive faster and cost less.

Americans Lend a Helping Hand



• Students in Jackson Elementary School in Salt Lake City, Utah, found out that there was a nearby disposal site for barrels that once held hazardous materials. The students passed out petitions urging officials to move the barrels. And they talked to state legislators to persuade them to change a state law so that money the students had raised could be donated to the health department.

 Students at North Central High School in Indianapolis may take part in a special program of community service. The students work with the Humane Society in a program to take pets on visits to nursing homes and homes for the disabled.

• For students in four school systems, learning to be a good citizen means learning to help others. Community service is a requirement for graduation in Atlanta, Ga.; Springfield, Mass.; Detroit, Mich.; and Cherry Creek, Colo. Atlanta students must spend 75 hours in voluntary service before graduation.

These are just three examples of America's volunteers—people lending a helping hand to their communities and neighbors. There are thousand of stories like these-stories of people who find things that need to be done in their community, and do them. Sometimes they cook food for the hungry, or they may help care for children in hospitals. Others may deliver meals and medicine to people who can't leave home. And still others may work to make their communities safer or more attractive.

Tide of Volunteers

A tide of volunteerism is sweeping the country. A survey of Americans 18 years old and older was taken last year. It found that nearly half of all those surveyed volunteered at least five hours a week to help others. Those who volunteered came from all walks of life, all ages and income groups, and all ethnic backgrounds.

The survey also found that an even greater number of Americans would perform voluntary service if they were asked or if an organization that could direct volunteer programs existed.



Teenagers take pets on visits to nursing homes.

Many Needs Not Met

What explains the current surge in volunteerism? Americans have always believed that they should help their neighbors, and today many of their neighbors' basic needs are not being met. The need for care for the elderly, child care, and help with the homeless and poor is growing.

President and Mrs. Bush are strong believers in volunteering to help others. In a recent speech, President Bush said, "From now on, any definition of a successful life must include serving others."

Barbara Bush has been a volunteer for a variety of charitable causes for many years. She has worked with cancer patients in New York City and in shelters for runaways. She has worked at soup kitchens in Washington, D.C. She is now promoting literacy programs that help people learn to read.

Businesses Encourage Volunteerism

Many employers in businesses and industries want their workers to get involved in volunteering. More than 600 U.S. companies encourage employees to volunteer to help charitable organizations in their communities. Many companies allow their volunteers to have flexible working hours to do their good works. Most companies that have done this say that volunteering improves morale and boosts the company's image in the community.



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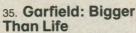
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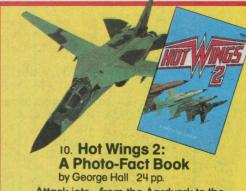


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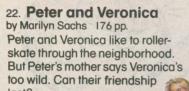
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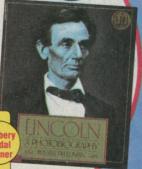
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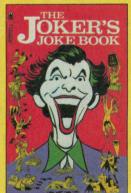
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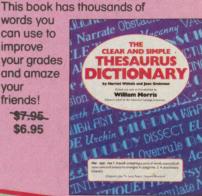
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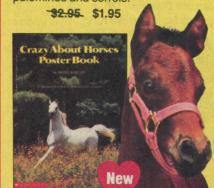
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Some cities and states have special programs to encourage volunteers. California set up a civilian conservation corps. It is the country's oldest and largest state-run public service program for youths. More than 40,000 young people have worked for the corps to improve parks and protect forests since 1976.

Now the federal Government is also considering a way to encourage volunteers across the country. President Bush is considering a national agency that would give money to communities and volunteer groups to improve life in their community.

There are a lot of people out there who want to follow the Golden Rule by helping others, says President Bush. We're just looking for a way to help them do that, he says.

Vocabulary Words

contaminated-to have been made harmful charitable-full of goodwill; generous voluntary-done willingly petition-a formal written request for something



their community.

First Lady Barbara Bush urges Americans to help other people learn how to read.

Body Talk Sports

Why Parents Keep Secrets

By Leon Rosenberg, Ph.D. Johns Hopkins Children's Center



Do you ever hear your parents whispering? Do you wonder what they're saying?

Usually parents talk secretly when they are worried. Sometimes they have a problem with money. At other times there may be an illness in the family. Or perhaps there is a fear of losing a job.

Parents don't want you to know about these problems. They don't want to worry you. They want to protect you.

Instead, when parents hide problems, children worry more. What children imagine is often worse than what's happening. For example, if the family is hiding an illness, children may think someone is dying. They know something bad is happening, but they don't know what. Or children may feel their parents are mad at them, and that's why they won't discuss what's wrong.

Obviously, it's best for everyone in the family when parents tell children the truth, no matter how tough it is

But what if your parents don't tell you what's wrong? What if you're upset about family secrets? What can you do?

Talk to your parents. Tell them that you are scared because you know there's something they're not telling you. Remind your parents that you are a part of the family. You want to know what's going on. Explain that you need their help.

REMEMBER: Don't let secrets stop you from trusting your parents. They were trying to protect you. Give them a chance to share these problems in the future.



Viacheslav Fetisov (right) plays for the New Jersey Devils.

Soviets Skate for U.S. Teams

For the first time, hockey players from the Soviet Union are playing in the National Hockey League (NHL) of the United States.

Nine Soviet players have been playing with NHL teams since the season began. They include Sergei Makarov and Viacheslav Fetisov—considered to be two of the best hockey players in the world.

Changing Times

Glasnost is a big reason why the Soviet players are in the NHL. Glasnost, which means openness, is part of a Soviet plan to improve relations with the U.S. and give Soviet citizens more freedom. But glasnost may be only part of the reason why Soviet hockey players are in the U.S.

Some of the best Soviet players have wanted to play hockey in North America for some time. Some experts say that the Soviet government has allowed the players to work in the U.S. so that they won't defect. If the players defected—left the country without permission—they wouldn't be able to return.

Soviets Excel

Hockey experts say that the Soviet hockey players are among the best in the world. The Soviet national team has won the gold medal for hockey in six of the last seven Winter Olympics.

So far this season, most of the Soviets in the NHL seem to be doing well. Sergei Makarov has been one of the league's leading scorers. And Viacheslav Fetisov has been one of his team's best defensemen.

The arrival of the Soviet stars in the NHL has given North American hockey fans a chance to see more of the world's best players. And Soviet citizens have another chance to view life in a democracy.



Bart, one of Hollywood's hottest new stars, has it all. He's tall, dark, and handsome. And very furry. Bart is a nine-foot-tall kodiak bear, and he's the leading man—er, bear—in the movie *The Bear*.

The film, by the French director, Jean-Jacques Annaud, was extremely successful in Europe and has quickly become a big hit in the U.S.

The Bear takes place in the Canadian Rockies. The film tells the story of an orphaned female bear cub who finds protection with a male grizzly bear. Bart, from the Baltimore Zoo, plays the grizzly. The cub, named Douce, came from a French zoo.

Acting as a Career

Bart and Douce spent about a year making the film. But Bart had to start practicing for his role long before



Bart lets out a growl during the filming of The Bear.

the cameras rolled. Bart had to learn how to walk with a limp and catch fish from a stream. Bart had always eaten fish that came from a supermarket!

Making a movie with a bear is a little different from making a regular movie, director Annaud says. None of the humans working on the film could eat around Bart or make a move when he was acting. Annaud says he wanted to make sure nothing startled Bart.

What's next for Hollywood's hairiest new star?

Bart, who has acted in other movies, is scheduled to appear in a new movie that starts filming this spring. But first, Bart has to finish his long, wellearned winter nap!

Senior Sleuths

During a huge blizzard, Senior Sleuths Gina and Hank meet Chief Henderson at the Shuteye Motel.

"Sleuths," the Chief says, "the motel was robbed about ten minutes ago. This cabbie, Tip Hack, is our only witness." The Chief points to a man in a cab.

"Man, what a lousy night," Tip says. "Eight inches of snow so far—3 inches just in the last hour, while I was in my cab reading the paper."

"What happened here?" Hank asks.

"I heard shots coming from the motel," Tip says.
"Then I heard feet clomping down the sidewalk, as

if a couple of people were running. Then I heard tires squeal as a car tore out of the parking lot."

"Why didn't you go after them?" Gina asks.

"I didn't have my motor running," Tip explains. "Can't afford to waste gas. I haven't had any fares all night. But I did call the police."

"I'm freezing. May we sit in the cab?" Hank asks.

"OK," Tip says. "It's warm in here. Great heater." "Things will get a lot warmer for you," Gina says.

What three mistakes did Tip make?

Garfield





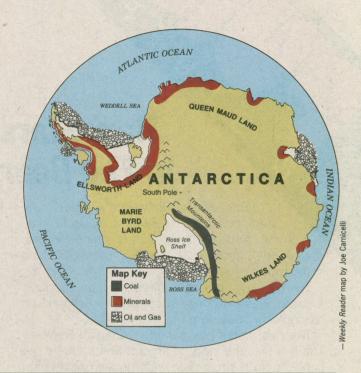




News Map Reading

Study the map at right. Then write T before each true statement and F before each false statement.

- 1. The oceans that surround Antarctica are the Atlantic, Pacific, and Arctic oceans.
- 2. There are oil and gas deposits in the Weddell Sea.
- 3. Queen Maud Land borders the Pacific.
- 4. The Weddell Sea is a part of the Atlantic.
- 5. The Transantarctic Mountains hold coal.
- **6.** The ice shelf along the shore of the Ross Sea is the Ross Ice Shelf.
- 7. Queen Maud Land has deposits of coal.
- 8. Marie Byrd Land is on the Pacific Ocean.
- 9. Ellsworth Land has many minerals.
- 10. There are no oil deposits in Antarctica along the Indian Ocean.



News Comprehension

Complete the following sentences by underlining the correct word or words.

- 1. A recent survey of Americans 18 years old and older found that about half of them give an average of nearly (5, 10, 20) hours a week to charitable causes.
- 2. Students in Detroit and Atlanta must (volunteer time to charitable groups, complete advanced geometry, invent something useful) to graduate.
- 3. The country's oldest and largest state-run public service program is in (Ohio, New York, California).
- **4.** The world's last undeveloped continent is (*Antarctica*, *Africa*, *Australia*).
- 5. The Antarctic Treaty says that the main activity on the Antarctic continent should be (the mining of minerals, scientific research, military operations).
- **6.** Many scientists believe that herrerasaurus is the world's oldest known (*mammal*, *fish*, *dinosaur*).
- 7. Herrerasaurus was named for Victor Herrera, a (beekeeper, goat herder, cattle rancher) who led scientists to the creature's fossil remains.
- 8. Stowaway Nguyen Van Tuan started his journey to the U.S. by crouching atop an oil tanker's (mast, anchor, rudder).

- **9.** Scientists have devised a way to send messages by bouncing signals off trails left by (comets, meteors, stars).
- 10. Astronomers say meteoroids come from the asteroid belt between the orbits of (Mars and Jupiter, Venus and Earth, Jupiter and Saturn).

News Vocabulary

Beside each word in the column at the left, write the letter of its definition.

meteor __ hazardous __ treaty __ charitable __ contaminated __ humane __ disabled __ volunteer __ flexible __

petition __

- a. exposing one to risk or danger
- **b.** a written agreement between countries
- c. considerate of other human beings or animals
- d. unable to do something
- e. a person who freely offers his or her services
- f. a streak of light caused by a meteoroid
- g. easy to change or adjust
- h. a formal written request
- i. something that has been made harmful
- j. full of goodwill; generous